



The Thoreau Society Bulletin

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Do We Have a New Image of Thoreau?

Elizabeth Witherell

It is easy to repeat but hard to originate. Nature is readily made to repeat herself in a thousand forms—and in the Daguerreotype her own light is amanuensis, and the picture too has more than a surface significance. . . . we may easily multiply the forms of the outward, but to give the within outwardness, that is not easy.

Journal entry of 2 February 1841

This is the first entry in Thoreau's journal following a series of passages that he copied selectively from two earlier manuscript volumes that no longer exist. In his usual elliptical way, Thoreau documents the fact that he is no longer copying and revising his own earlier thoughts, but beginning to create new ways to express his ideas, "to give the within outwardness." Although he categorizes the photographic process as a kind of repetition, he acknowledges that the image created may have a deeper meaning. One such image that may indeed have a deeper meaning for Thoreauvians was displayed at the annual gathering in July: this is a recently-discovered daguerreotype, reproduced here, which might be of Thoreau.

Photographic images of Thoreau are extremely rare; if it can be authenticated, this daguerreotype, owned by Edward McCann of Vancouver, British Columbia, would be the fifth extant image known to be of Thoreau. Three of the others are slightly different poses made at the same sitting; the location of a sixth has been a mystery for almost seventy-five years.

Walter Harding and Thomas Blanding wrote about the images of Thoreau in "A Thoreau Iconography," published in

"Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk"

Studies in the American Renaissance in 1980 (ed. Joel Myerson, Boston: Twayne Publishers, pp. 1–35) and republished as *Thoreau Society Booklet* 30 the same year (Geneseo, NY). As Harding and Blanding indicate, Thoreau is known to have sat for two photographers during his lifetime.

On 18 June 1856, in response to a request by an admirer named Calvin Greene, Thoreau went to the Worcester, Massachusetts, studio of Benjamin D. Maxham. He had one daguerreotype made for Greene, and one for each of his Worcester friends, H. G. O. Blake and Theophilus Brown. Blake's copy is now in the Berg Collection of the New York Public Library, and the Greene copy is in the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, D.C. Brown's copy remained in his family until it was donated to the Thoreau Society in 1968; it is now at the Thoreau Institute in Lincoln, Massachusetts. These daguerreotypes show Thoreau with a Galway beard under his chin.

Thoreau's friend Daniel Ricketson asked for a photograph while Thoreau was visiting him in New Bedford in 1861. On 21 August Thoreau went to the establishment of E. S. Dunshee, who made two ambrotypes of Thoreau; in these images, Thoreau has a full beard. One of these ambrotypes is owned by

the Concord Museum; the location of the other has not been known since it was sold at auction in 1924.

Ed McCann discovered the daguerreotype he owns in an antique shop in Newport, Rhode Island, on 2 October 1993 (see pp. 2–3). He has a good deal of expertise in the area of photographic images: he has been a serious collector of

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Left: The McCann daguerreotype: the original, in a dark brown leather quarter plate case, measures 2 3/4" x 3 1/4"

Right: This paper backing, containing the numbers "543", lines the case in which the McCann daguerreotype sits



first time just a few days before he died—eight months after it was made—and his sister Sophia did not see it until late-May 1862, some days after Henry's death.

Newport, and it is not improbable that a photograph of Thoreau could have made its way onto the market there from the estate of a Channing relative.

These two areas of speculation are intriguing, and both lend themselves easily to more research. Comparing the material and design of the daguerreotype case with others of certain date; locating and examining Clark's business records; and determining how and why daguerreotypes were numbered and whether dates were written in reverse order, month following year, all would offer clues. Also, Channing's papers or family records might yield information.

Another area of investigation would involve computer comparison of first-generation copies of all of the authenticated images with the McCann image. The same forensic techniques that are used to reconstruct facial features from skeletal remains or to "grow" the image of a missing child's face into adulthood might be applied to the task of determining the degree of correspondence between the man in McCann's daguerreotype and Henry Thoreau.

Because McCann couldn't attend the annual gathering, I presented the evidence and the suggestions above, standing in front of 16" x 20" enlargements of the Maxham, Dunshee, and McCann images. The response was lively; it ranged from absolute disbelief that McCann's daguerreotype depicts Thoreau to firm conviction that it does. Members of the audience offered helpful suggestions for further research, including information about a census of

old cameras, accessories, and prints, and has curated two museums that contain 19th-century photographic images—the Maison Del Vecchio Museum in Montreal and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Museum in Regina, Saskatchewan. In 1990 he was introduced to Henry Thoreau, and, in his own words, he "started to live a simpler, sometimes happier, life."

The daguerreotype that caught McCann's eye in Newport was priced at \$24; the proprietor brought it out almost as an afterthought, when McCann asked to see any old photographs the shop might have. As he told me when he visited the Thoreau Edition last spring, McCann was so struck with the sense that he was looking at a picture of Henry Thoreau that he put down his last \$2 and borrowed the rest from the person he was traveling with. Since he acquired the image, he has been trying to authenticate the daguerreotype.

First he sought documentary evidence, but Thoreau does not mention the image in his journal or in any correspondence that survives. It is also the case, however, that Thoreau's visit to Maxham is documented only in the letter he wrote to Greene on 21 June 1856. In addition, the documentation concerning the Dunshee ambrotype is all posthumous: Thoreau referred to it for the

Lacking direct evidence, McCann has investigated the possible situations in which this image might have been made, and he has constructed a hypothesis based on a journal passage for 13 March 1854. On that day, Thoreau reports, he went to Boston, and he bought a telescope for eight dollars; he was in the shop of Alvan Clarke & Sons, a family of optical-instrument makers well known in the history of American astronomical observation. McCann has found an advertisement for "Clark's Daguerreotype Rooms" at 59 Court Street in Boston: he suggests that Alvan Clarke, who was trained as an artist, might have offered a daguerreotype as a premium for buying the telescope, or that Thoreau, who had just finished the seventh draft of *Walden* and offered it to Ticknor & Fields, might have wanted to memorialize the occasion. Written on the paper backing that lines the case housing the daguerreotype are the numbers "543"; McCann suggests that these numerals refer to March, the third month of 1854.

That the daguerreotype was discovered in Newport may have some significance. The family of Thoreau's friend and walking companion, William Ellery Channing the Younger, had strong roots in Rhode Island, and particularly in



Design on the front of the case



Inside of the front of the case, lined with velvet

photographic establishments in 19th-century Boston, the idea of comparing the background in the McCann daguerreotype with the background in those known to be from particular studios, the address of a working daguerreotype studio, and the curious fact that ear lobes have been found to be uniquely distinctive.

In the end, this proved just the beginning. Thoreau himself put a good deal of

faith in the right kind of indirect evidence; he said, "Some circumstantial evidence is very strong, as when you find a trout in the milk" (my students, who get their milk in cartons and not from local dairies where it could have been watered, rarely understand how sharply witty this statement is). My own opinion is that this could be a new image of Henry Thoreau—but that we have not yet found the trout in the

milk. I hope that over the next year, members of the Thoreau Society will take up the challenge of gathering the necessary evidence. If you have suggestions or help to offer, please write to Ed McCann at 125-1035 Pacific Street, Vancouver, BC, V6E 4G7 Canada. We hope to be able to provide an update at next year's annual gathering.

Brant's Adaptation of Ives's "Concord, Mass., 1840–1860" Austin Meredith

While in New York City recently I happened fortuitously to be present for the U.S. premier of Henry Brant's adaptation of Charles Ives's second sonata for piano, "Concord, Mass., 1840–1860," with its four parts titled "Emerson," "Hawthorne," "The Alcotts," and "Thoreau," for full orchestra more or less as Ives may have originally imagined it as he composed it on his piano.

I will include a brief chronology:

1920: Using money earned in life insurance, Charles Ives self-published his second piano sonata, "Concord, Mass., 1840–1860." This is the publication that Elliott Carter's teacher Bernard Herrmann would eventually come across in a discount bookstore next door to Carnegie Hall, and the montage effect contained in this piece would be used with telling effect in the scores for such films as *Citizen Kane*.

1929: The young Montreal composer Henry Brant happened to be present for a performance of the second movement of

Ives's Fourth Symphony because his parents had subscribed to a concert series. He was fixated.

1939: In this year a pianist, John Kirkpatrick, first managed to perform in public all of Charles Ives's inordinately challenging second sonata for piano, "Concord, Mass., 1840–1860." In order to perform the piece at all, the musician was forced to keep a fifteen-inch stick of wood handy, with which to molest the piano keyboard. Ives had, while composing this work, he said, been hearing it in his head as an orchestration rather than as a piano performance. He referred to this piece not as a sonata but as "an immense four-movement impressionistic symphony for piano."

1957: Henry Brant began to study and play the Ives "Concord" sonata and began to grasp, as he said, that within it there lay the seeds of "The Great American Symphony." Initially, he would trans-key the "The Alcotts" portion, then the "Thoreau" portion, for total orchestra,

before moving into what he figured to be the major part, "Emerson," and the most idiomatic, the "Hawthorne" part. Brant's orchestral retranscription of the piece would require five times as many years as it had taken Ives to originate it on his piano.

16 June 1995: Performance of Henry Brant's orchestration of Charles Ives's "Concord, Mass., 1840–1860" by the National Symphony Arts Center Orchestra in Ottawa.

25 February 1996: U.S. premiere at Carnegie Hall.

27 February 1996: The performance was reviewed in the *New York Times*. The reporter believed that the brass band had marched by during the "Emerson" movement rather than the "Hawthorne" movement.

Does anyone have a sense of precisely what Ives had been reading about Thoreau while he was composing this piece?

Three Anecdotes from Thoreau's *Wild Fruits* Manuscript

Bradley P. Dean

The following three anecdotes are extracted from Thoreau's *Wild Fruits* manuscript and appear here with the permission of the Berg Collection of English and American Literature; The New York Public Library; Astor, Lenox, and Tilden Foundations—where the manuscript resides. Thoreau worked on but was unable to complete the manuscript in the two or three years before his death, during the same period he worked on *The Dispersion of Seeds*, published in *Faith in a Seed* on 23 April 1993 under the Shearwater Books imprint of Island Press of Washington, D.C. I am currently reconstructing and editing the manuscript (as Thoreau left it) for publication, sometime either in late 1998 or early 1999, by W. W. Norton and Company of New York City.

[From "Notes on Fruits" folder, unnumbered manuscript affixed to manuscript with accession number 305]

I was over picking cranberries in Merriam's pasture—30 years ago—when suddenly I saw & heard one whom we boys called old Justice coming after me—with great strength—I caught my pail & being young & active as most boys are at 12—I soon distanced him—though he steadily pursued—but I cleared the walls nimbly—and at length reaching the village I dodged around the houses—and then I lost him & he at the same time lost me—I did not know till then that cranberries were private property—

[From "Notes on Fruits" folder, manuscript accession number 231]

I remember my earliest going a-graping—I got dismissed & went alone to a particular vine in Walden Woods which I can even now point out—It was a wonder that we boys ever hit upon the ripe season. There was more fun in finding & eyeing the big purple clusters high on the trees, & climbing to them—shinning up a vine as a sailor a rope—than in eating them. We used to take care not to chew the skins lest they should make our mouths sore.

[From "Notes on Fruits" folder, manuscript accession numbers 165–166,

168–169, 167, 170]

When I am going a-berrying in my boat or other carriage I frequently carry watermelons for drink. It is the most agreeable & refreshing wine in a convenient cask—and most easily kept cool—Carry these green bottles of wine. When you get to the field you put them in the shade or in water—till you want them.

When, at home, if you would cool a watermelon which has been lying in the sun—do not put it in water which keeps the heat in, but cut it open & place it on a cellar bottom, or in a draught of air in the shade.

There are various ways in which you can tell if a watermelon is ripe. If you have had your eye on the patch much from the first—and so know the history of each one, & which was formed first, you may presume that those will ripen soonest—or else you may incline to those which be nearest to the center of the hill or root, as the oldest.

Next, the dull dead color & want of bloom are as good signs as any. Some look green & livid, & have a very fog of bloom on them, like a mildew. These are as green as a leek through & through & through, & you'll find yourself in a pickle if you open one. Others have a dead dark greenness, the circulations coming less rapid in their cuticles, & their blooming period passed, & these you may safely bet on. If the vine is quite lively, the death of the quirl at the root of the stem is almost a sure sign. Lest we should not discern it before, this is placed for a sign that there is redness and ripeness within.

Of 2—otherwise similar, take that which yields the lowest tone when struck with your knuckles, i.e. which is hollowest. The old or ripe ones ring base, the young tenor or falsetto.

Some use the violent method of pressing—to hear if they crack within, but this is not to be allowed. Above all no tapping on the vine is to be tolerated—suggestive of a greediness which defeats its own purpose. It is very childish.

One man told me that he couldn't raise melons because his children would cut them all up. I think that he

convicted himself out of his own mouth. It was evident that he could not raise children in the way they should go, & was not fit to be the ruler of a country according to Confucius's standard. I once, looking by a special prominence through the blinds, saw one of his boys astride of my earliest watermelon, which grew near a broken paling, & brandishing a case-knife over it, but I instantly blew him off with my voice before serious damage was done—and made such an ado about it as convinced him that he was not in his father's dominions, at any rate. This melon, though it lost some of its bloom then, grew to be a remarkably large & sweet one, though it bore, to the last, a triangular scar of the tap which the thief had designed on it.

The farmer is obliged to hide his melon patch far away in the midst of his corn or potatoes. I sometimes stumble on it in my rambles—I see one to-day where the watermelons are intermixed with carrots in a carrot bed & so concealed by the general resemblance of the leaves at a little distance.

It is an old saying that you cannot carry 2 melons under one arm. Indeed it is difficult to carry one far—it is so slippery. I remember hearing of a lady who had been to visit her friends in Lincoln—and when she was ready to return on foot they made her the rather onerous present of a watermelon—With this under her arm she tript it glibly through the Walden Woods, which had a rather bad reputation for goblins &c in those days. While the wood grew thicker & thicker, & the imaginary dangers greater—the melon did not grow any lighter, though frequently shifted from arm to arm—and at length it may have been through the agency of one of those mischievous goblins, it slipped from under her arm—and in a moment lay in a dozen pieces in the middle of the Walden road. Quick as thought the trembling traveller gathered up the most luscious & lightest fragments with her handkerchief—and flew rather than ran with them—to the peaceful streets of Concord.

President's Column

Elizabeth Witherell

Thanks to those who mentioned that they missed my column in the spring issue; I thought of the letter about voting as having taken its place. I want to make the official announcement here, to the entire membership, of the results of the poll of members on the issue of voting. Twelve hundred ninety-two ballots were sent out, and 441 members responded. The final tally was 299 (68%) to 139 (32%) in favor of voting; there were three abstentions. As I explained in the letter that accompanied the ballot, this means that the following pattern will be established beginning in fall 1997:

Nominations from the membership for seats on the Board of Directors are due on 1 January 1998. You may nominate yourself, or another member may nominate you; you and anyone nominating you must be members to be eligible. Each nomination must be supported by a brief (one-page) statement of qualifications and interest. *Please consider this announcement a call for nominations, and send them to our managing director, Tom Harris (see last page of bulletin for mailing address).*

The Board of Directors will meet in January 1998 and create a slate that will include qualified nominees presented by the membership as well as Board nominees. The President will appoint a Nominating Committee to produce a slate for the offices (president, secretary, treasurer, and so on) that are open.

All members will receive mail ballots in the spring; ballots will be returned, counted, and new officers and members of the board will be notified in advance of next summer's gathering, which will take place the weekend of 11 July 1998.

This year's annual gathering was very exciting for me, and I was particularly interested to meet with Thoreau Society members on Sunday in an open forum with the Board of Directors. About fifty Thoreau Society members attended, and topics of discussion included events at the meeting and plans for next year's gathering, arrangements with the Concord Academy, mechanisms for getting in touch with other members, and the results for older members of the changes that have taken place in the last few years.

While the range and quality of events offered at this year's meeting was applauded

(literally), there was a recommendation that next year detailed schedules be mailed out early with the registration form rather than being available at the registration table. This will be done.

The only meal at the Concord Academy this year was breakfast, and some of those attending expressed the hope that more meals could be offered at the Academy next year. This is an issue of cost: the Academy raised its prices for meal service higher than the Thoreau Society staff thought those attending would be willing to go. Tom Harris will try to negotiate a lower cost for next summer.

The Board agreed to find a mechanism for creating a membership directory; Tom Harris will look into the details, including cost, and report to the Board.

A general area of concern that has been discussed on many occasions in the last few years is the lack of a meeting place for Society members near the center of Concord, and the absence of a guiding Thoreauvian personality. All agreed that the Thoreau Lyceum's proximity to the railroad station was a great advantage, and Anne McGrath's presence there made the visitor's experience unique. All agreed, too, that the economics of Concord make it impossible to recreate this situation instantly. Suggestions for replacement sites included the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden, where there is a small room with an interactive display about the Pond; the Concord Museum, where Thoreau's house replica has been reconstructed; the Concord Library, where so many of Thoreau's manuscripts are available in the Special Collections Department; and the Thoreau Institute, when the new building housing the collections is open. This is a problem we all will have to continue to work on, and it will not be solved easily.

Associated with the sense of loss many feel about the Lyceum is an impression on the part of some of the long-time members of the Society that they have been passed over as the organization has changed. Members of the Board were grateful to have this point of view expressed directly. Our intention, of course, is to be *inclusive* rather than *exclusive*, and I apologize to those who have not felt included. Tom Harris will use the information provided to help plan next year's gathering.

A change that we all supported is to hold a business meeting on Saturday morning next year. As a general-gathering, the Saturday morning meeting will provide an opportunity for announcements and discussion of the same kinds of issues that were raised in the open forum this year, and I hope all will feel welcome. At the January 1998 Board meeting, we will work out the details of this event.

Finally, a question was raised about the relationship between the Thoreau Society and the Walden Woods Project. The organizations have worked together closely in the last few years to create the educational opportunities for students, for teachers, and for all Thoreauvians that are represented by the Thoreau Institute. The Walden Woods Project was extremely generous in support of the Thoreau Society as we moved out of the Thoreau Lyceum in anticipation of a safe place to house the Harding, Adams, and Robbins collections; and we worked as partners to write the NEH Challenge Grant that provided a portion of the funds to construct the new Thoreau Institute building. Three former members of the Thoreau Society Board of Directors have been especially active in the work of the Walden Woods Project: Kathi Anderson, the Executive Director of the ISIS Fund, which is the parent organization of the Walden Woods Project; Helen Bowdoin, Program Director for the Thoreau Institute; and Brad Dean, Media Center Director for the Thoreau Institute.

As the plan for the Thoreau Institute begins to be implemented, the Walden Woods Project and the Thoreau Society Board are drawing apart to a certain extent, to maintain their individual identities and distinct but interrelated goals; and Kathi, Helen, and Brad have all resigned from the Board of Directors. All of the members of the Thoreau Society owe a great debt to these three individuals for their tireless efforts on behalf of the Society and of Thoreau himself. I want to express my particular gratitude to Kathi, for her dedication and her patience, and to Don Henley, for his generous spirit and material support in a time of growth and change for the Society.



Thoreauvians gathered in Concord from 10–13 July for the Thoreau Society annual gathering. Over one hundred sixty people registered for the extended weekend of events.

Participants noticed several changes in this year's program. To allow for more activities, we began this year's gathering earlier on Thursday and ended later on Sunday afternoon. Parker Huber led participants on a hike up Mt. Monadnock on Thursday morning; Sunday afternoon Mike Long led canoers down the Concord River to Great Meadows. We had a modified version of the traditional business meeting, although not at the traditional time (Sunday afternoon instead of Saturday morning) or place (Concord Academy instead of First Parish Meetinghouse). And for the first time, we instituted a registration fee to defray the costs of the gathering.

At the first reception Thursday evening, Beth Witherell welcomed the participants and gave opening comments. Joe Gilbert had organized a participant reading of *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail*. Members volunteered (some were selected) to play the parts of Thoreau, Emerson, Staples, and others. Those in attendance concluded the play with a discussion of its accuracy and interpretation.

Mornings during the annual gathering were set aside for outdoor activities. Members canoed to Fairhaven Bay, to Great

Meadows, and on Walden Pond. Although for some this was their first experience in a canoe, not one canoe was flipped. Hikers climbed Mt. Monadnock with Parker Huber and toured Estabrook Woods with Steve Ells, Great Meadows with Walter Brain, Fairhaven Cliffs with Joe Gilbert, and Sandy (Flint's) Pond with Brad Dean. Again this year, the Concord Museum led walking tours of Concord, but this year the tour included the Museum's new exhibit, "Why Concord?"

Workshops touched on various themes, including conservation, literature, and social reform. Beth Witherell did double duty presenting

"The Writings of Henry D. Thoreau in the Twentieth Century," and "Is This Thoreau?"—the latter a presentation on Edward McCann's newly discovered daguerreotype (see article, p. 1). Michael Berger (University of Cincinnati) and Jennifer Cook (Northeastern University) presented their Thoreau research in what we hope will become a regular feature of presenting reports of current research at annual gatherings. Daniel Shealy and the Emerson Society arranged for a panel discussion on "Transcendental Women and Biography," which featured panelists Phyllis Cole on Mary Moody Emerson, Bruce Ronda on Elizabeth Palmer Peabody, and Cynthia Barton on Abigail Alcott. Tom O'Malley led a journal-writing seminar. Leslie Wilson, Special



View from Thoreau Spring on Mt. Katahdin taken during this summer's Katahdin Excursion. Article on page 8. Photos by Tom Harris



Gathering

Collections Librarian at the Concord Free Public Library (CFPL), led three tours of the Thoreau collection at CFPL.

Helen Bowdoin and Steve Ells led a workshop on current Thoreau Country preservation issues. Karst Hoozeboom, Landscape Architect with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Management, presented a workshop on the bank-restoration project at Walden Pond. Michael Kellett, executive director of RESTORE: The North Woods, talked about the efforts to preserve the areas in Maine that Thoreau visited. Phil Bosserman, Professor of Sociology at Salisbury State University, led a workshop on "Thoreau, Peace, and the Twenty-First Century."

John Hanson Mitchell, author of *Walking towards Walden*, spoke Friday night on "Sense of Place." Jeffrey Hyatt then performed a selection from his monodrama, *Walden Pawned*. This year's main speaker was David Brower, former executive director of the Sierra Club, founder of Friends of the Earth, and

currently founder and chairman of Earth Island Institute. Brower spoke without notes on the influence Thoreau has had on his own life and on the lives of others in the environmental movement. He also spoke of the need for future generations to heed Thoreau's famous dictum, "In Wildness is the preservation of the World." Immediately after Brower's speech, Beth Witherell presented him with the Thoreau Society Medal (see article, page 11).



This year's annual gathering was one of the most well attended and diverse gatherings in recent history, due in large part to the vision and efforts of Society director Joe Gilbert. While this year's gathering seems to have been very successful, the Committee for the Annual Gathering would appreciate suggestions from members on how we might be able to improve next year's gathering,

which is scheduled for 9-12 July 1998. Send your suggestions to the Society's Managing Director, Tom Harris (see last page for address).

All photos by Milt Savage

Photos clockwise from left:
1. Society President Beth Witherell with David Brower and the Thoreau Society Medal
2. Steve Ells (left) leads a walk

through Estabrook Woods 3. (l to r) Michael Crim as Deacon Ball, Stafford Reynolds as Bailey, and Phil Bosserman as Henry Thoreau reading *The Night Thoreau Spent in Jail* 4. Steve Witzig demonstrates his steering technique on the Sudbury River 5. Society Board member Joe Gilbert presents John Hanson Mitchell with a Thoreau throw following Mitchell's lecture 6. (l to r) Tom Harris, Mike Long, Steve Witzig, and Becca Brooks join Brower after his lecture.



Economy

Robert Galvin

When I wrote the following figures, or rather the bulk of them, I lived with Phyllis, in the city, fifty feet from any neighbor, in a house which she had bought herself, near the shore of Jamaica Pond, in Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, and earned my living by the labor of my mind only. At present I am a workaholic in my law office again.

I should not obtrude our affairs so much on the notice of my readers if very particular inquiries had not been made by members concerning the Society's mode of operation, which some would call impertinent, though they do not appear to me at all impertinent, but considering the circumstances, very natural and pertinent. Some have asked the amount of our membership revenue; if we did not feel afraid that we would operate at a loss, and the like. Others have been curious to learn what portion of our income is obtained from charitable gifts; and some, who have large families, how many poor children we

educated. I will therefore ask those of my readers who feel no particular interest in me to pardon me if I undertake to answer some of these questions in this report. I should not talk so much about the finances of the Society if there were anybody else's whose finances I knew as well. Unfortunately, I am confined to this theme by the narrowness of my experience. Moreover, I, on my side, require of every finance committee chair, first or last, a simple and sincere account of the income and expenses of his own organization, and not merely what he has heard of other organizations' finances; some such account as he would send to the Attorney General or to the Internal Revenue Service.

The exact cost of our Society, paying the usual price for such materials and services as we used, was as follows; and I give the details because few are able to tell exactly what their societies cost, and fewer still, if any, the separate cost of the various materials and services which compose them:

Statement of Support and Revenue and Expenses Fiscal Year Ended 31 March 1997

Expenses:

Salaries	\$79,599.00
Employee benefits	5,150.00
Pension expense	1,608.00
Annual meeting	14,794.00
Bank and credit card fees	5,427.00
Contract labor and honorariums	22,147.00
Postage and freight	7,121.00
Travel	3,155.00
Payroll taxes	7,519.00
Professional services	9,252.00
Insurance	6,273.00
Office supplies and expense	9,103.00
Telephone	8,115.00
Maintenance and repairs	7,012.00
Printing	24,123.00
Advertising	1,052.00
Walden shop rent	8,375.00
Depreciation	14,823.00

Total Expenses\$234,648.00

Support and Revenue:

Gifts and donations	\$50,972.00
Walden shop gross profit	113,147.00
Membership dues	36,660.00
Annual meeting	13,856.00
Investment income	6,519.00
Bulletin and Saunterer sales, Saunterer advertising, & Royalties	1,336.00

Total Support and Revenue\$222,490.00

Net Loss.....\$12,158.00

Net profit not including depreciation\$2,665.00

Notes from Thoreau Country

Helen Bowdoin

"It was lovely he should draw his first breath of pure country air, out of crowded towns, amid the pleasant russet fields," wrote Ellery Channing in reference to Henry Thoreau's birth in 1817 on his family's farm on Concord's Virginia Road. The good news from Thoreau Country, recently noted by the *New York Times*, the Associated Press, the *Boston Globe*, and Boston television, is that this historic home with twenty acres of land has been permanently protected from suburban development.

In less than twelve months, an ad-hoc committee under the leadership of Concord Selectman Sally Schnitzer, consisting of town officials, non-profit groups, and private individuals, succeeded in raising the property's \$960,000 purchase price. The farm is now owned by the town of Concord. Saving the property required a vote of funds by Concord's town meeting and contributions from state agencies, private foundations, and hundreds of individuals. Many people volunteered time to the effort.

One of the major contributions, \$160,000 from the Education Collaborative for Greater Boston (EDCO), came roundabout from former Thoreau Society member Nathaniel Seefurth. Working in the 1970's with Connecticut school principal Dr. Jane Dorgan, Mr. Seefurth, a business executive and Thoreau scholar in Chicago, established a fund to encourage the teaching of Thoreau to schoolchildren. Upon the dissolution of the Seefurth Foundation near the time of his death, EDCO became custodians of the fund's assets. Pursuing Mr. Seefurth's vision, EDCO will build a small barn-like structure near the original farmhouse in which Thoreau was born. The barn will be used as an educational center—a place where students and teachers from near and far can learn about the life and writings of Thoreau and his friends, and about the Concord community in the nineteenth century. EDCO expects to hold a ground-breaking ceremony this fall and is hopeful that Mrs. Nathaniel Seefurth and Dr. Dorgan will attend.

Continued on page 9

1997 Katahdin Excursion

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of Thoreau's ascent of Mt. Katahdin, the Society sponsored its own excursion to Maine's highest peak. Society member Burton Chandler of Worcester and Society director Ron Hoag organized the trip, which began Thursday evening, 26 June, with a lobster/clambake in Ogunquit, Maine. Participants drove to Old Town on Friday for a tour of the Old Town Canoe Factory and then to Millinocket just outside of Baxter State Park.

On Saturday, fifteen participants started out on the 5.2-mile Hunt Trail, which is also the last section of the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail. The group was compelled to abandon plans to climb up Abol Trail, which most closely traces Thoreau's route, because park rangers deemed the trail "extremely unstable" because of loose boulders. Twelve of the fifteen made it to Baxter Peak (5,267 feet) while others took in the views from elsewhere in Baxter State Park. Wayne and Marion Rasmussen of Concord got a close-up view of a moose as it crossed a dirt road in front of their car. Wes Hetrick of Virginia was the first to spot a moose and her calf near the entrance of the park.

Baxter State Park was established by the Maine legislature in 1933. The original 5,960 acres of the park, which included Mt. Katahdin, was given to the state by former governor Percival P. Baxter in 1931. Baxter's final gift of 7,764 acres of land came in 1962. This 202,064-acre wilderness park contains 175 miles of trail and 18 mountain peaks above 3,000 feet. Atop the 5,267-foot summit of Katahdin are the words of Governor Baxter in tribute to Maine's highest peak:

"Man is born to Die, His Works are Short-lived
Buildings Crumble, Monuments Decay, Wealth Vanishes
But Katahdin in All Its Glory
Forever Shall Remain the Mountain of the
People of Maine."

Thoreau Country, from page 8

Phase II of the effort to protect Thoreau's birthplace (where he lived for only the first eight months of his life) was launched in September 1997. Additional funds must be raised to stabilize and restore the nearly three-hundred-year-old house, currently in severe disrepair. In the winter of 1878 it was moved on runners a quarter mile down the road from its original location. Built as a saltbox, it now measures about 20 by 40 feet. Cost estimates for restoration alternatives are expected in the next month or so; fund-raising strategies are being developed and issues of management and governance addressed.

Writer and Thoreauvian Jane Langton asks, "Why do the places where famous people lived matter so much to those who come after? Seeing the shape of the land they lived on and the rooms in which they lived . . . gives their words a powerful and

haunting vitality." And elsewhere she adds, "Henry Thoreau was as great a writer as any other man or woman born in the United States, and yet he lacks a memorial in the town he loved so much and knew so well. . . . We must preserve and cherish the house where he was born."

T. H. Watkins, retired Vice President of the Wilderness Society, writes "In Wilderness is the preservation of the World," Thoreau told us, but it was Concord and his connection to it that gave him the intellectual foundation on which that transforming vision could be built, and we need to recognize that context and to preserve it just as vigorously as we seek to preserve wilderness." Let us give the last word, though, to Thoreau himself. "I have never got over my surprise that I should have been born into the most estimable place in all the world, and in the very nick of time, too."

For their long history of land preservation and dedication to the conservation ethic of Governor Baxter, the Society presented to Buzz Caverly, Park Director, a wood plaque bearing the logos of the Thoreau Society and Baxter State Park engraved with the following quote from Thoreau's *The Maine Woods*:

Why should not we, who have renounced the king's authority, have our national preserves, where no villages need be destroyed, in which the bear and panther, and some even of the hunter race, may still exist, and not be 'civilized off the face of the earth,'—our forests, not to hold the king's game merely, but to hold and preserve the king himself also, the lord of creation,—not for idle sport or food, but for inspiration and our own true recreation?

The plaque was presented by Society director Ron Hoag at a banquet in Millinocket on Saturday evening. Hoag gave a brief talk on Thoreau's "Ktaadn," and Buzz Caverly talked about the history of Baxter State Park. Also in attendance were James Kotredes, Town Manager of Millinocket, and Samuel Shapiro, former state treasurer of Maine.

The Katahdin excursion might never have happened had it not been for the work of Bud Chandler and Ron Hoag, who made the arrangements and coordinated the activities. Twenty Society members from Texas, Virginia, New Jersey, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Maine participated in the excursion and celebrations.

Photo pages 6-7

If you'd like to join the campaign to save Thoreau's birthplace, there is still time. Please send your contribution in the form of a check payable to the Thoreau Society—Thoreau Birthplace, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004 USA. All new contributions will be used for the restoration project.

**The Thoreau Society greatly
appreciates the efforts of those
individuals, public and private
foundations, corporations,
and town officials who have
donated their time, money,
and talents to preserving
Thoreau's birthplace.**

Calendar

November

Maryland

3 Monday 7:30 p.m. *Walden Pawned*, a monodrama edited and performed by Jeffrey Hyatt, will be presented at Salisbury State University in the Wicomico Room of the Guerrieri University Center

Massachusetts

8 Saturday 10 a.m.–12 The Town of Emerson and Thoreau: Exploring Concord Inside and Out. A two-hour walking tour, starting at the Museum and moving out in

to the town, explores the relationship of Emerson and Thoreau to their community. \$10 Adults; \$7.50 Seniors; \$5 Children, Students, Members. Reservations required (978) 369-9763

12 Wednesday 7:30 p.m. "The time of the singing of the birds is come: William Brewster and Concord, Massachusetts" Jayne Gordon, Director of Interpretation and Education, Concord Museum. Free and open to the public. This is the second in the Museum's fall lecture series co-sponsored by the Concord Museum, Thoreau Institute, and Massachusetts

Audubon Society. The series is in association with the exhibition *For the Love of Nature: Paintings, Prints, and Sculpture* from the Collections of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Please send any notices of upcoming events to The Thoreau Society, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004, U.S.A.; e-mail them to tsattip@aol.com; or fax them to (781) 259-1470. We would like to maintain as complete a Calendar as possible covering activities across the country and throughout the world.

Notes and Queries

The Book of the Month Club recently offered a set of Thoreau's writings that includes *Walden*, *The Maine Woods*, and *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. "Civil Disobedience" was included as a gift with the purchase of the set.

Jim Dawson of Trappe, Maryland, notes that *A.B. Bookman's Weekly*, a specialty magazine for used-book shops and collectors, featured on the cover of its 19 May 1997 issue a quote from *Walden*: "Books are the treasured wealth of the world, the fit inheritance of generations and nations."

Outstanding Books for the College Bound: Choices for a Generation, a 1996 American Library Association publication, lists two Thoreau works; *Walden* and "Civil Disobedience."

"Henry David Thoreau was all wet," reports the Rome, New York, *Daily Sentinel*. This was a theme of Gerald J. Fiorini's commencement speech to the 1997 graduating class of Rome Catholic High School. Fiorini, chairman of the Board of County Legislators, accentuated the negative for the graduates: "Because it is such a happy time, I thought I would begin by reminding you of the most dreary, negative, mind-numbing, and depressing quotation I can remember from my high-school days." The quote he refers to is "The mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation." He attributed Thoreau's dim view of the "squalid lives of the masses" to the times. "Life back then probably wasn't so

swell for the average guy. But times have changed . . . Today, you don't have to be the average guy, or gal, unless you really want to." According to Fiorini, the mass of men no longer need to lead lives of quiet desperation because "We've entered an era of relative enlightenment, where we've largely set aside our dual standards and cruel prejudices; an era of awesome technological progress, and, yes, even peace on earth, unlike anything in the history of the planet. That means opportunity for the young."

The Town of Granby, Connecticut, recently proclaimed 20 July 1997 Henry David Thoreau Day. "In recognition of the significant contributions made to countless generations of Americans through his writing, we are proud to pay tribute to a Special American, one of our country's first environmentally conscious citizens." The proclamation, signed by town selectman William J. Simanski, was made in conjunction with the first annual "Backpacking Is In-Tents, Hiking, and Environmental Festival" sponsored by GNP Graphics of Granby. Joe Gilbert, member of the Society's Board of Directors, and Mike Long, manager of the Society's Shop at Walden Pond, tended an information table on the Society's behalf. Gilbert gave two brief presentations on Thoreau's relevance today.

Henry David Thoreau is still available—albeit in a different physical form—for walking tours and talks about his life and

writings. To arrange for a tour or speech, call Henry (a.k.a. Brad Parker) at (508) 256-2939. Parker is available Monday through Thursday evenings, Friday mornings, and Sunday, 5-7 p.m. Reservations are required. Rates vary according to amount of time and the number of people.

Erma Bombeck included a line in her book *At Wit's End* that could be taken in several ways. "Mother was right. I should have married that little literature major who broke out in a rash every time he read Thoreau."

The Walden Woods Project held its annual gala in Boston this year on 10 August. In addition to a speech by Don Henley and performances by comedian Anthony Clark and singer/songwriter Jackson Browne, Jeffrey Hyatt performed a selection from his monodrama *Walden Pawned*. Hyatt's material presented several sides of Thoreau's writings, from his observations of nature to his impassioned anti-slavery speeches. Hyatt has several more performances coming up this fall (see the Calendar section).

Bauman Rare Books is offering *Walden*, with illustrations by Edward Steichen, for \$985. This copy, published in 1936, is one of 1,500 signed by Steichen. For more information call Bauman Rare Books at (800) 99-BAUMAN.

Thoreau Society Medal

David R. Brower, noted environmentalist and conservation spokesman, received the first Thoreau Society Medal at the Society annual gathering in Concord, Massachusetts, on Saturday, 12 July. The award, presented by Beth Witherell, Society President, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Thoreau Society, honors an outstanding contribution, in the spirit of Thoreau's life and work, made by an individual or an organization. The medal is a pentagon bearing symbols of the natural world and Thoreau's famous statement from "Walking," "In Wildness is the preservation of the World."

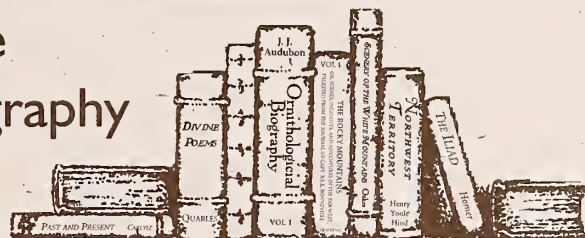
Brower is the founder and Chairman of Earth Island Institute. In 1952 he became the first executive director of the Sierra Club and held the position through 1969. Brower launched a successful publishing venture for the Sierra Club by combining the photography of Eliot Porter with the writings of Thoreau in *"In Wildness Is the Preservation of the World."*

Probably I should not consciously and deliberately forsake my particular calling to do the good which society demands of me, to save the universe from annihilation; and I believe that a like but infinitely greater steadfastness elsewhere is all that now preserves it. But I would not stand between any man and his genius; and to him who does this work, which I decline, with his whole heart and soul and life, I would say, Persevere, even if the world call it doing evil, as it is most likely they will.

—Walden

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Thomas S. Harris



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This bibliography was compiled with contributions from J. Austin, I. Box, B. Breau, B. Flory, P. Huber, J. St. Pierre, V. Raatz, A. Suberchicot, K. Van Anglen, L. Walls, and R. Winslow III.

Continued on page 12

If I have missed any books, articles, or other relevant material, please let me know. Send any additions or corrections to Thomas S. Harris, The Thoreau Society, 44 Baker Farm, Lincoln, MA 01773-3004 U.S.A. (e-mail: JTSTom@aol.com). Whenever possible, please include a copy of the book, article, or other publication so that we can include it in the Thoreau Society's collection at the Thoreau Institute.

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The Thoreau Society, Inc. is an international not-for-profit organization founded to stimulate interest in and foster education about the life, works, and philosophy of Henry David Thoreau.

To fulfill its mission, the Society:

- ❖ operates and develops programming for the Thoreau Institute, in partnership with the Walden Woods Project;
- ❖ sponsors various Thoreau-related excursions and events throughout the year;
- ❖ owns and operates the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, a visitor's center with a bookstore and gift shop located at the Walden Pond State Reservation;
- ❖ holds a four-day annual gathering each July in Concord, Massachusetts; and
- ❖ publishes the *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, *Concord Saunterer*, and other Thoreau-related material.

Membership in the Society includes subscriptions to its two publications, *The Concord Saunterer* (published each autumn) and the *Thoreau Society Bulletin* (published quarterly). Society members receive a 10% discount on all merchandise purchased from the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond and advance notice about Society programs, including the annual gathering. Contact the Thoreau Society administrative offices in Lincoln, Massachusetts, for membership information (address below).

Thoreau Society Directory

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Inquiries about merchandise (including books and mail-order items) should be directed to Mike Long, Manager, the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond, 915 Walden Street, Concord, MA 01742-4511, U.S.A.; tel: (978) 287-5477; fax: (978) 287-5620; e-mail: waldshop@aol.com.

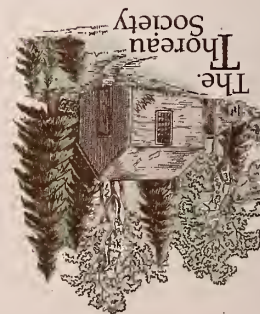
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Nominations for the Board of Directors
 Members will once again vote on the Board of Directors (see President's Column inside).
 Nominations are due no later than 1 January 1998. Ballots will be mailed out with the spring 1998 *Thoreau Society Bulletin*.